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Reagan and Mondale Vow to Meet the Press

RESTON, Va., Oct. 6 (AP) — President Reagan says he would "continue to be as responsive as possible to the public through the media" in a second term, and Walter F. Mondale says he would hold "regular and frequent" news conferences if elected.

The remarks came in response to questions submitted to the two principal Presidential candidates in an American Society of Newspaper Editors survey of their views on the press. The responses were released Friday.

Calling freedom of the press "one of the cornerstones of our society," Mr. Reagan said that he had held 26 formal news conferences since 1981 and had held 200 other formal question-and-answer sessions with the press. He added that he met often with reporters "in a variety of informal settings."

"You can be assured that, should the American people entrust my Administration with a second term, we will continue to be as responsive as possible to the public through the media," he said.

Mondale 'Broadly Accessible'

Mr. Mondale said that in the campaign he had been "broadly accessible to the press," and he promised to "conduct my Presidency in the same manner."

"News conferences are an important source of information for the President, the press and the American people," he said. "I will hold them frequently and regularly. In addition, I will continue to be more informally available."

In response to another question, the Democratic Presidential nominee criticized Mr. Reagan for excluding reporters from the early hours of the Grenada invasion. As President, he said, he would "return to this country's long-standing policy of allowing the fullest possible press coverage consistent with military necessities."

Mr. Mondale said Mr. Reagan's actions in the Grenada invasion "made it very difficult for me, other public lead-

ers and the American people to arrive at a well-informed independent judgment about the President's action."

Mr. Reagan said the invasion had been planned and carried out in secrecy because "of the Cuban presence and influence on the island" as well as the need to preserve the safety of Americans in Grenada.

By the second day after the landing, he said, a pool of reporters was on the island, adding, "and then, the third day, a larger pool" before Grenada was opened wider for press and television coverage.

The Defense Department has invited representatives of the press to help develop "an appropriate press plan should any similar operation be undertaken," Mr. Reagan said, adding, "You can be sure their views will be fully considered."

Asked about an executive order issued last year that required censorship of certain Government employees, Mr. Reagan said he was "firmly committed to freedom of speech and freedom of press."

'No Right to Leak Information'

"But there is no right to leak properly classified information," he said, "and it is my sworn duty to protect the national security on which all our liberties depend."

Mr. Reagan added that, "because of the concerns some expressed," he had suspended two parts of the 1983 National Security Decision Directive on unauthorized disclosures of classified information. One part allowed the use of polygraph, or lie-detector, examinations to determine the source of unauthorized disclosures and the other part required Government employees with access to the most sensitive classified information to submit their public writings on intelligence matters for review in advance of publication.

He said the two parts of the directive had been suspended "so we could work with the Congress on how best to deal with the serious problem of leaks of classified information."

Mr. Mondale said the directive "should never have been issued." He asserted, "It would produce a chilling atmosphere of fear and restraint within our Government."